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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G07F11/02 G07F11/04 G07F11/42 G07F11/62 G07F17/00 G07F11/32 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 **G07F** Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category • Relevant to daim No. WO 01 04704 A (ZORZAN IVANO ; NORTECH 1~14 ITALIA SRL (IT)) 18 January 2001 (2001-01-18) figure 1 DE 199 51 263 A (KAESSER JUERGEN) 1-14 26 April 2001 (2001-04-26) column 8, line 61 -column 9, line 6 Α US 5 015 047 A (NOCK HANS) 1-14 14 May 1991 (1991-05-14) abstract; figure 1 US 4 560 088 A (TAN LARRY K) Α 1-14 24 December 1985 (1985-12-24) figures 2,3 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the Invention *E* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such docuother means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled *P* document published prior to the international filing date but in the art. later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 15 October 2003 31/10/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Kemény, M Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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